

VHS COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



Fall 2022

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WELCOME TO THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR

The Counseling Department Staff are excited for another school year to begin. If you are new to VHS, the newsletter is an important way that we communicate with students and families about what is going on in our department. We send them out every other month. Let us know if there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter – we love your feedback!

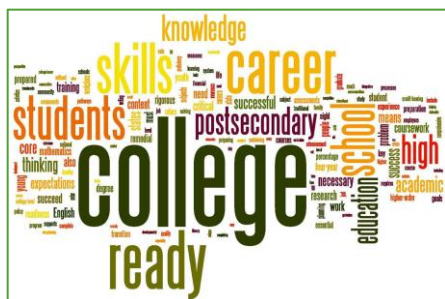
IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

October 1	FAFSA and WASFA open
October 4	Jostens visit for senior cap & gown orders
October 7	Teacher In-Service – no school for students
October 12	PSAT – All 11th grade students 12 pm start for everyone else
October 14	Picture retake 9 am – noon in Great Hall
October 19	Scholarship Notebook info night
October 22	Homecoming Dance
November 1	Priority registration deadline for AP exams
November 4	Field trip to Seattle National College Fair
November 8	Late registration deadline for AP exams

FINANCIAL AID

Applications for both federal and state financial aid opened October 1st. Useful links below. Please contact Jenn Coe if you have questions or need assistance.

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid: [FAFSA Application](#)
- Washington Application for State Financial Aid: [WASFA Application](#)
- [Washington State Financial Aid Programs](#)
- [Virtual Financial Aid Info & Filing Events 2022-23](#)
- [Financial Aid Myths](#) / [Mitos Sobre Ayuda Financiera](#)



Contact Us

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SENIOR MEETING WITH JOSTENS

Jostens representatives met with seniors on Oct. 4 during SMART to talk about ordering caps & gowns. To order go to [Jostens.com](https://www.jostens.com). Families can also borrow caps & gowns from the VHS Green Team. If you prefer to borrow, rather than buy, please complete [this form](#).

PSAT

The PSAT is October 12 at 8:20 am. All 11th graders are encouraged to take the PSAT. The cost is \$20. Please make payments on the VHS website under Pay Meals & Fees. See your counselor for questions about accommodations.

SCHOLARSHIP NOTEBOOKS

Scholarship Notebook Info Night is Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 6:30 pm via Zoom. The Zoom link sent the week of the event. This is a fabulous opportunity for our seniors – **everyone who applies gets a scholarship!** All seniors should plan to attend.

AP EXAM REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

All AP exam information posted on the front page of the [VHS website](#).

Priority Registration for AP Exams

- Open now and closes on Tuesday, November 1
- Cost = \$125 per exam, no charge for Free/Reduced Lunch
- Payment online or in main office.

Late Registration for AP Exams

- Wednesday, November 2 - Tuesday, November 8 (3:00pm)
- Cost = \$150 per exam, no charge Free/Reduced Lunch
- Payment MAIN OFFICE ONLY

ALL AP Exam Registrations and Payments close Tuesday, November 8 at 3:00pm

Applying for Accommodations

If your student has an IEP or 504 plan, please contact your counselor to verify whether accommodations have been requested/approved if you have not received an email from CollegeBoard in this regard. For AP exam accommodations in May, students must have requested accommodations by January 18, 2023. Once approved by the CollegeBoard, accommodations are secured for any future PSAT, SAT or AP exam.

COLLEGE FAIRS

Fall brings College Fairs to the Northwest! There are several upcoming fairs, virtual and in person:

College Fair Field Trip

Save the date for Friday, November 4. Juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to attend the National College Fair in Seattle. More details to come including field trip forms. If you are interested in attending as a chaperone, please email Jeff Jones (jjones@vashonsd.org) or Jenn Coe (jcoe@vashonsd.org).

Seattle National College Fair

Fri.-Sat., November 4 & 5th

Washington State Convention Center

more info at <https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/national-college-fairs/seattle-national-college-fair/>

Pierce County College Fair

Tacoma Community College

Wednesday, Sept. 28th, 5:30-7:30pm

more info at <https://www.pnacac.org/tac-fair>

Virtual College Fairs

October 9th, 4-9 pm

November 6, 4-9 pm

<https://www.nacacfairs.org/attend/attend-virtual-college-fairs/>

COMMON APPLICATION FAQs

If your student is planning to apply to any private, liberal arts schools, they will be using the Common App to do so. The Common App is a convenient application process that allows students to fill out one application that is submitted to multiple schools. The Common App **requires two teacher and one counselor letter of recommendation**. Students are required to complete a letter of recommendation packet and make a request, in person, to their teachers and counselor at least 3 weeks in advance of their earliest deadline. Information about this process was shared with seniors on Sept. 19th and can be found on the guidance page of the VHS website under “senior resources”. Information specifically for parents regarding the Common App can be found at <https://www.commonapp.org/family>

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPORT

We know that the start of the school year brings lots of excitement and many questions about where to find support for your student(s). Here is a list of who to turn to with specific concerns:

- Academic concerns: start with your student's teacher – they are a phenomenal resource! All contact information for teachers is in Skyward or on the school's website
- Academic concerns beyond individual classroom concerns: If you have questions about your student's abilities or how they are progressing towards graduation, please contact their counselor
- Any questions about social issues, stress management, post high school planning, student support, transitioning to high school, service learning, peer relationships and more...contact your student's counselor
- Concerns about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs – prevention and intervention: Mandi Wilcox mwilcox@vashonsd.org

- Health Team: Brandi Greenidge, RN bgreenidge@vashonsd.org, Elizabeth Hilliard, RN ehilliard@vashonsd.org and Amy Nielson anielsen@vashonsd.org.
- Medical appointments are available at the Neighborcare Clinic once your student has registered with them. More information at <https://neighborcare.org/clinics/vashon-island-high-school/> or 206.548.7550
- Discipline questions or concerns: Mr. John Erickson jerickson@vashonsd.org
- Attendance reporting: dfranson@vashonsd.org
- Bus Route questions: (206) 463.2525

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Community service information & ideas are on the VHS website and posted on a bulletin board on the plank. Contact Jenn Coe if you have questions.
- There is a job board located outside the counseling offices.